



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*
 Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
 Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
 Timothy Martin, *Reader*
 Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
 Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

PLEASE WEAR A MASK FOR ALL SERVICES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 #NATIVITY FAST

28th Sunday after Pentecost
 Sunday of the Holy Fathers
 Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord
 Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer (107)

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MONDAY, JANUARY 3 #NATIVITY FAST

9:30am Prefestive Moleben of the Nativity

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6 ##STRICT FAST DAY

9:30am Royal Hours of Nativity
 Great Compline (Velikij Povečerije)
 6:30pm in Rankin (146 Third Avenue)
 7:00pm in East Pittsburgh (211 Cable Avenue)
 and McKeesport (424 Ninth Street)
 8:00pm in Ambridge (450 Glenwood Drive)
 and Homestead (903 Ann Street)

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7 FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9:30am Divine Liturgy and Parish Family Photo

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SATURDAY, JAN. 8 – 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Synaxis of the Theotokos
 9:30am Divine Liturgy
 Panachida for +Daniel Gavulich (1-year)

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 – 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

29th Sunday after Pentecost
 Sunday of the Holy Ancestors
 Holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen
 9:15 am - Nativity Canon & Carols (*Kol'ady*)
 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy



BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

Nativity Fast - The Fast runs until the Eve of Christmas on Thursday, January 6 when we have a **day of strict fasting** when we fast from meat and dairy in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of our Lord. If you have any questions about fasting, please talk with Father Dave. *We need to prepare the Manger of your Soul for the coming of the new borne Messiah!*

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Prefestive Moleben of the Nativity – On **Monday** at 9:30 am, we will offer a Moleben (*devotional service of supplication*) as the Church anticipates the Feast of the Nativity later this week.

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Christmas Pot-Luck will NOT Return – Our Parish Council has reconsidered and we will not have a pot-luck on the 7th. We will also return to wearing masks during the services in the church.

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Congratulations! to Meredith and Ryan Blobner and their families on the birth of **Molly Rose Blobner** born on 12/27 at 8:27 am (9 lb 14 oz and 22 in). Welcome to our Parish Family!

“Preserve her and this child which she has borne. Cover her with the shelter of thy wings from this day until her final end, through the prayers of the most Holy Theotokos and of all the saints. Amen” – from *Prayers for a Woman on the First Day after Childbirth*

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Community Outreach - During the Nativity Fast, we are called to increase our Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. We are having a **Food Drive Project** for

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

*(responded with: **Glory be forever!**)*

Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na viki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! **If you have any questions** in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

Neighborhood Resilience Project (formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh). Please bring in non-perishable unexpired food items: canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, canned meats, soups, oatmeal, pasta, peanut butter and jelly, and rice,

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Cathedral's services online at **9:00 am**.

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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Future Services are listed on our online “Parish Calendar” which is continually updated at: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar (*Please ask Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy*)

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Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh Icons – In the generosity of St. Nicholas, thank you to the anonymous donor of additional icons of the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos of Pittsburgh for every household of the parish! If you did not get an icon last year, please see Fr. Dave or Larry to take yours home today. May God bless all of the homes where the icons are going!

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1-year of On-Line Giving – We have had the option of on-line giving from our parish website now for a year! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple. But you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation.

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Confession – A reminder to make time for you Nativity Fast Confession. Fr. Dave is available after every service as well as by making an appointment.

BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 597
Candles/Eternal Lamp Stewardship:	\$ 103
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 234
Community Outreach:	\$ 35

Total Collections:	\$ 969
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Relocation Fund:	\$ 50
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In faith that God provides:

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.’” – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Kathy Schrmack; Lawrence Martin; Melanie Shuster; Eleanor Sanger; Patty Watson; Cindy Pavilonis

“I am the light of the world;

he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - John 8:12

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Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)

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Spiritual Vitamin for Monday:

"Make ready, O Bethlehem: throw open thy gate, O Eden. For He Who is, comes to be that which He was not, and He Who formed all creation takes form, granting the world great mercy."
 - *Vespers Verse for the Forefeast of the Nativity*



On-Line Giving is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in). Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation to the:

General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.

If you miss coming to church for a week, this allows you another option to “catch up” on your weekly stewardship. For our parish to continue its ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Shopping on-line – The on-line shopping store, Amazon.com, will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our diocese! Simply go to the home page of our Diocesan website, www.acrod.org, and click on the AmazonSmiles button in the far left column and then shop as usual (Same products; same prices; same service). *Would someone be willing to research how we can set this up for our parish?*

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Cantor and Choir Director Positions – St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead, PA is in need of a fulltime cantor and choir director (filled by one person or two.) Please email Tom Pingor, Parish Council President, at tpingor@verizon.net for more information.

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VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

⁹By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob,

heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his burial.

The Faith of Moses

²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ³²And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated— ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. ²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father

of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, ⁸and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, ⁹and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, ¹⁰and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, ¹¹and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. ¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of She-al'ti-el, and She-al'ti-el the father of Zerub'babel, ¹³and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, ¹⁵and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, a virgin shall

conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'u-el” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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Spiritual Vitamin for Tuesday:

“Hearken, O heaven, and give ear, O earth:
for behold, the Son and Word of God the Father
comes forth to be born of a Maiden who has not
known man, by the good pleasure of the Father
Who begat Him impassibly, and by the
co-operation of the Holy Spirit.

- Vespers Verse for the Forefeast of the Nativity

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Priestmartyr Ignatius The God-Bearer

Commemorated on Jan 2 / Dec 20

This holy man is called "the God-bearer" because he constantly bore the name of the Living God in his heart and on his lips. According to tradition, he was thus named because he was held in the arms of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ. On a day when the Lord was teaching His disciples humility, He took a child and placed him among them, saying: Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18:4). This child was Ignatius. Later, Ignatius was a disciple of St. John the Theologian, together with Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, Ignatius governed the Church of God as a good shepherd and was the first to introduce antiphonal chanting in the Church, in which two choirs alternate the chanting. This manner of chanting was revealed to St. Ignatius by the angels in heaven. When Emperor Trajan was passing through Antioch on his way to do battle with the Persians, he heard of Ignatius, summoned him and counseled him to offer sacrifice to the idols. If Ignatius would do so, Trajan would bestow upon him the rank of senator. As the counsels and threats of the emperor were in vain, St. Ignatius was shackled in irons and sent to Rome in the company of ten merciless soldiers, to be thrown to the wild beasts. Ignatius rejoiced in suffering for his Lord, only praying to God that the

wild beasts would become the tomb for his body and that no one would prevent him from this death. After a long and difficult journey from Asia through Thrace, Macedonia and Epirus, Ignatius arrived in Rome, where he was thrown to the lions in the circus. The lions tore him to pieces and devoured him, leaving only several of the larger bones and his heart. This glorious lover of the Lord Christ suffered in the year 106 A.D. in Rome at the time of the Christ-hating Emperor Trajan. Ignatius has appeared many times from the other world and worked miracles, even to this day helping all who call upon him for help.

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Spiritual Vitamin for Wednesday:

"For He Who is equal in honor with the Father and the Spirit, has from compassion clothed

Himself in our substance,

and makes ready to be born in the city of Bethlehem. The praises of His Nativity past speech the shepherds and the angels sing."

- *Vesperal Verse for the Forefeast of the Nativity*

LIVING ORTHODOXY

On the Civil New Year

By Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick, 12/31,21

It's not the Church's new year coming up, nor is there some major natural event occurring that tomorrow will be on the other side of.

Yet nonetheless, our agreeing together, for many purposes, that tomorrow begins a new year is itself significant. The new year is, in a real sense, an almost global ritual of turnings and beginnings that we participate in together.

So while I understand those who say that Jan. 1 has no real significance, that's a denial of our actual participation in this time-marking ritual, which doesn't make much sense. Like it or not, we'll be writing a new date tomorrow on everything.

And it's not like we can't have a sense of more than one new year for various purposes. We all have new school years, new fiscal years, birthdays, etc. We're complex people with multiple relationships to time and its marking.

The Lord of the Heavens and Earth made cycles of this world, and so it is our vocation to participate in

this cycle, and making calendars and clocks and days and weeks and feasts and appointments and seasonal patterns is how we do it.

So all of that is to say this: **Sanctify the rituals of time that you participate in. All things can be made holy. All things can be oriented toward Christ. All things can be for our advancement in holiness, in being added by Christ to His heavenly host.**

May God bless your new years, however you mark them, and may you bless them with His blessing as you participate in His works and show yourself to be worthy to be called the sons of God.

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Week of the Holy Fathers

Commemorated on the Sunday before the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

"the Holy Fathers have instituted the Commemoration of the Genealogy of our Saviour Jesus Christ, in which we include not only His ancestors according to the flesh from Adam to Joseph the Betrothed of the Mother of God, but all the Righteous and the Prophets, who, by their words or deeds, announced the coming in the flesh of the Son of God." *(from the Synaxarion)* As baptized Christians, we ourselves are by adoption children of the Father and brethren of Christ, as the Apostle says, and are therefore a continuation of this spiritual lineage. May we be made worthy! Since the Jews did not trace genealogies in the mother's line, the Scriptures do not give us the lineage of Christ according to the flesh, which was through his mother Mary; but instead list the forebears of Joseph the Betrothed, who served according to the Law as husband of Mary and father of Jesus. According to the Fathers, the blessed Virgin was the daughter of Joachim, son of Bar-Panther, son of Panther, son of Levi, son of Nathan, son of King David. Thus as prophesied, the Messiah was of the house and lineage of David.

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Spiritual Vitamin for Thursday:

"It is better to take the Bible and read it,

to make a Prayer to Our Lady,

to say five psalms of David,

than to watch TV."

+St. Iakovos Tsalikis

PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for
Special Intentions and Other Needs**

A Prayer For The Sick:

O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Paul, Kathleen, Alexandra, Dennis, Kasamanda, Robert, Douglas, Christopher, John, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians:* Nicholas, Dylan, Tom, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day): Juliana Anton – Virgin-martyr Juliana of Nicomedia (1/3) *(contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)*

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Birthday Prayers for... Carol Lorenzi (1/2), Joshua Mainolfi (1/3), Anna Martellotti (1/4), Steven Buhonick (1/7) *...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Susan, Marilynn, John *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Nicole & Dustin *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Allison *(due in May)* *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan *...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +Margaret Ferencz (12/21), +Michael Polanichka, the Priest (12/20), +Michael Macura, the Priest (12/18), +Igor Soroka, the Priest (12/18), +Joanne Mondin (12/15), +Elizabeth (12/12), +John Gido, the Priest (11/25), Pani +Eleanor Polanichka (11/21) *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.*

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions *(in the case of answered prayers)* to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another.** Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

Spiritual Vitamin Friday:

They asked the monk on the Holy Mountain:

- What do you generally do in the Church?

- Nothing.

- Nothing?

- Yes, we are not doing anything.

- **So why then do you go to Church?**

- Does the baby do anything while lying in the womb? In his mother's womb he only feeds and grows until the time comes to be born. And we are doing the same. In the Church we abide and pray, in the Church we feed on the Holy Mysteries and with the help of God's grace we grow and develop until the time comes to be born for eternal life.

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**DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR
THE NATIVITY FAST**

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NATIVITY FAST PRAYER CHALLENGE 2021

*Metropolitan Gregory asks each member
of our Diocese, either as a family or individually,
to pray this every evening of the Nativity Fast.*

O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God: I truly believe and confess that You became flesh and dwelt among us for the salvation of the whole world. At Your Nativity, You endured the cold of the manger to enkindle within me love for You. You were bound in swaddling clothes to deliver me from the chains of sin and death. You were nourished with milk and thereby fed the Body which one day would suffer for my sake.

During these days of fasting and prayer, forgive me – unworthy as I am – all the sins by which I have offended Your infinite goodness. Renew in me fervent faith, unailing hope, and a charitable desire to serve others. Accept this act of thanksgiving, just as You accepted the gifts and worship of the Wise Men, and preserve us all from dangers that we may adore You and say: Glory to You, O Lord Jesus Christ, forever and ever. *Amen!*

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**THE CANON OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

Ode 1: Christ is born, glorify him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him! Christ is an earth, be exalted! O all the earth, sing to the Lord, and sing praises in gladness, all people, for He has been glorified.

Ode 3: To the Son Who was begotten of the Father without change before all ages, and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin, to Christ our God, let us cry aloud: You have raised up our horn, holy are You, O Lord!

Ode 4: Rod of the root of Jesse, and flower that blossomed from his stem, O Christ, You have sprung forth from the Virgin. From the mountain overshadowed by the forest You came, made flesh for her that knew not wedlock, O God not formed from matter. Glory to Your power O Lord!

Ode 5: As You are God of Peace and Father of mercies, You have sent to us Your Angel of Great Counsel, granting unto us peace. So are we guided towards the light of the knowledge of God. And watching by night, we glorify You, O Lover of mankind.

Ode 6: The sea monster spat forth Jonah as it had received him, like a babe from the womb: while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh: came forth from her yet kept her undefiled. For being Himself not subject to decay. He preserved His Mother free from harm.

Ode 7: Scorning the impious decree, the three children brought up together in godliness feared not the threat of fire: but standing in the midst of the flame they sang: “O God of our fathers, blessed are You!”

Ode 8: The furnace moist with dew was the image of a wonder past nature. For it burned not the children whom it had received, even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin’s womb into which It had descended. Therefore in praise, let us sing: let the whole creation bless the Lord, and exalt Him above all forever.

Ode 9: I behold a strange and wonderful mystery. The cave has become heaven, the throne of the Cherubim, the Virgin. The manger a noble place where lies Christ our God Who cannot be contained. Let us praise Him in song and magnify You!

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A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life’s problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from
8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.*

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Online Community: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

Parish Phone Tree - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.
Emergency Sick Calls – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

Mystery of Confession – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

Holy Communion/Eucharist – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive *a blessing* from the chalice.

Lapsed Members – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

Baptisms – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.

Adult Chrismation – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

Marriages – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall).

Church Funerals – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

“The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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How to stay connected with the departed:

- ✕ Pray for them during the Divine Liturgy,
- ✕ Remember them in your daily prayers,
- ✕ Organize memorial services for their remembrance on their anniversary,
- ✕ Honor their memory by following their good deeds,
- ✕ Light a candle weekly for your departed loved ones,
- ✕ Give alms on their behalf, and
- ✕ Take care of their tombs [graves].

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As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.
And you need the church. 🏡❤️🙏